THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Discussions are still in progress about leasing/purchasing of Soviet aircraft by Indian Airlines and Air India.

Recovery in shipping industry from recession

1895. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any signs of improvement and recovery in the shipping Industry, which has been experiencing recession in the past decade; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) While there was slight improvement in the international tanker freight market for a short while and certain fluctuating improvements in the freight market for certain trades were noticed, it is not possible on the basis of these indications to conclude that the shipping Industry has shown signs of improvement and recovery.

Extra Departmental Employees in the Postal Department

1896. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Savoor Committee regarding Extra Departmental Agents/Employees in Postal Department;

(b) which of them have been accepted, rejected or modified by Government;

(c) what are the average working hours per day of the Extra Departmental Agents; and

(d) what are their zonewise numbers and how many of them are engaged in other jobs also to earn their livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Savoor Committee has made 171 recommendations concerning Extra-Departmental Agents/Employees. The over all position containing all the recommendations of the Committee, acceptance or other-wise of each of the recommendations, with reasons for non-acceptance and action taken on accepted recommendations is under compilation and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) On an average Extra-Departmental Agents work for 2 to 5 hours per day;

(d) Circle-wise numbers as on 31-3-86 are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below). All Extra Departmental Agents are permitted to have other jobs to earn their livelihood. Records of details in this regard are not kept by the Department.